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STATE SENATOR • 20TH DISTRICT

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Federal Government Has Failed to Lead on Immigration

Stroebel: Because of federal government's failure, states are forced to fill the void

Madison, WI – Today's Voces de la Frontera rally billed "A Day Without Latinos", was a call to action for Latinos, immigrants, workers, business owners and allies to "unite across Wisconsin to defeat racist, anti-immigration legislation." Regardless of their rhetoric, the targeted legislation represents an attempt by the state of Wisconsin to address immigration issues that the federal government has blatantly ignored for decades. We are a nation of laws and the federal government must secure our nation's borders and enforce the immigration laws already in place.

In response to the rally, Senator Duey Stroebel (R-Cedarburg) issued the following statement:

"I support lawful immigration and I support the reforms being protested today. That is not an incongruent statement. Senate Bill 533 and Assembly Bill 450 are common sense proposals to facilitate the enforcement of our already existing immigration laws. However, the federal government has so woefully controlled this area of the law, states now must pass legislation affirming its role to issue ID cards and requiring local units of government to cooperate with the federal government on immigration enforcement.

"Frankly, the sort of rhetoric spewed by Voces would not find support among many of the hard working legal immigrants in Wisconsin providing a better life for their families. Entering the country illegally has never, and should not be, part of the American Dream. I call on the federal government to secure our borders and reform our immigration laws in a common sense manner for the betterment of our country. In the meantime, I urge the Governor to sign into law SB 533 and for my Senate colleagues to pass AB 450."

Senate Bill 533, which will head to the Governor's desk, will ensure only state issued ID cards may be used for voting purposes or to obtain public benefits – cards obtained by many at no cost. Most Wisconsin residents agree that the delivery of identification cards, whether in the form of a driver's license or otherwise, is a state function and should remain so.

Following a lawful detainment or arrest, Assembly Bill 450 safeguards local governments' ability to inquire into the immigration status of an individual who commits a crime. The bill, already passed by the Assembly, allows local governments to otherwise cooperate with the federal government.

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